

REMARKS

In response to ¶ 6 of the office action, Applicants hereby affirm their election of claims 41-50. Non-elected claims 1-40 and 51 have been canceled.

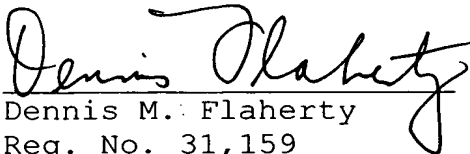
In ¶ 11 of the action, claims 41-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,609,827 to Bois et al. This ground of rejection has been mooted by cancellation of claims 41-44.

In ¶ 12, the Examiner indicated that claims 45-50 would be allowable if suitably amended. In response, Applicants have rewritten each of claims 45-50 in independent form, including all of the limitations of claim 41.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 45-50 are hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date set forth below.

April 1, 2006

Date

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